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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/779,400	02/16/2004	Ryuichi Iwamura	50T5720.02	2801

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EXAMINER

PHAN, RAYMOND NGAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2111

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/779,400

Applicant(s)

IWAMURA, RYUICHI

Examiner

Raymond Phan

Art Unit

2111

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) Claims 1, 6-16, 20-21, 30-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6-8, 10-13, 15, 16, 20 and 30-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 14 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: amendment filed on May 17, 2006.
2. This application has been examined. Claims 1, 6-16, 20-21, 30-32 are pending.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 6-8, 10-13, 15-16, 20, 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srivastava (US Pub 2002/0194596) in view of Edson (US No. 6526581).

In regard to claims 1, 10, 15, Srivastava discloses a home entertainment network, comprising: at least one network path 125 (see figure 1); at least a first component 130 having a data bus of a bus width (i.e. PCI) (see figure 1, paras 12-13); at least a second component 104 having a data bus 125a (see figure 1, paras 12-13); wherein each network interface includes at least one data stream port 123 (see figure 1, para 31); wherein each network interface includes at least one network communication port 126 communicating with a common network

backbone (see figure 1); wherein each network interface includes at least one host bus interface 125a communicating with a host bus 125 of the respective component (see figure 1). But Srivastava does not disclose the second bus width being different from the first bus width; and respective network interfaces connecting each component to the network path; at least a switch selectively connecting the network communication port to either the host bus interface or the at least one data stream port. However Edson discloses the mechanism and method for interfacing two different kind of buses (i.e. D2/3 interface – 16-bit or 32-bit bus and D1/1 interface – 8-bit bus) comprising the first device 43 having first data bus (i.e. 16 or 32 bit bus) (see figure 1, col. 8, lines 38-65), a second device 31 (i.e. stereo receiver) having second data width (i.e. 8-bit bus) (see figure 1, col. 8, lines 38-65), second bus width is different from the first bus width (see figure 1, col. 8, lines 38-65); wherein each network interface includes at least one host bus interface 311 communicating with a host bus of the respective component 31 (see figure 1); respective network interface connecting each component to the network path 23, 21(see figure 1); at least a switch (i.e. router) selectively connecting the network communication port to either the host bus interface or the at least one data stream port (see figure 2, col. 9, lines 52-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Edson within the system of Srivastava because it would provide a digital communication connection for a different type of wide area network link.

In regard to claims 6, 11, 17, Edson discloses wherein the host bus interface is configured to have a bus width equal to the bus width of the component with which it is associated (see col. 10, lines 46-65). Therefore, it would have been

obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Edson within the system of Srivastava because it would provide a digital communication connection for a different type of wide area network link.

In regard to claims 7, 12, Edson discloses wherein the component configures the host bus interface (see col. 10, lines 46-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Edson within the system of Srivastava because it would provide a digital communication connection for a different type of wide area network link.

In regard to claims 8, 13, 20, Edson discloses wherein each network interface included packetizing/depacketizing component (see col. 11, lines 41-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Edson within the system of Srivastava because it would provide a digital communication connection for a different type of wide area network link.

In regard to claims 30-31, Srivastava discloses a server 130 having a third network interface 123 communicating with the network 125, wherein the first component is a TV 170 and the second component is an audio client component 104 (see figure 1).

In regard to claim 32, Srivastava discloses a server 130 having a third network interface 123 communicating with the network 125, wherein the first component is a TV 170 and the second component is an audio client component 104 (see figure 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 9, 14, 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Amendment

7. Applicant's amendment and arguments, see pages 1-7, filed on May 17, 2006, with respect to the rejections of claims 1-33 under 35USC102(e)/103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Edson.

Conclusion

8. Claims 1, 6-8, 10-13, 15-16, 20, 30-32 are rejected. Claims 9, 14, 21 are objected.

9. The prior arts made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gugel et al. (US No. 6,513,085) disclose a link/transaction controller with integral microcontroller emulation.

Braithwaite et al. (US Pub No. 2005/0131558) disclose an audio network distribution system.

Santhoff et al. (US Pub No. 2004/0022304) disclose an ultra-wideband communication through local power lines.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Raymond Phan, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3630. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30AM- 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (571) 272-3632 or via e-mail addressed to mark.rinehart@uspto.gov. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

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Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [raymond.phan@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 central telephone number is (571) 272-2100

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Raymond Phan
July 19, 2006